

VOLUME No. 2009
ISSUE No. 1
JANUARY 2009



STATISTICS:

- Membership - 74 Members
- Treasurer Report as of
12/31/08 - \$3,008.68

RESOURCES ONLINE:

www.lawsuitstoday.com

At this site you can search for keywords as well as names of defendants...for example...you can find "falling ladder" cases at Wal-Mart. Once you find a case which covers the topic you are searching for, you can obtain a copy for only \$10.00.

www.paralegalgateway.com

This site has compiled a list of links to free legal forms on the internet.

PROFESSIONAL BULLETIN FOR THE BELL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION PARALEGALS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

I trust that everyone made it safely through the holidays. Now, here we are back at the grindstone that is daily living. Emphasis is often placed on the resolutions to begin the bright and shiny new year. I am NOT here to share with you my resolutions. I only wish to convey to each member my hope that your resolutions are met and that 2009 is a great year for you all.

The donations to the residents of Wellington Place was overwhelmingly fantastic! I knew that we had compassionate members but I was still amazed by the amount of items we collected. The residents were equally as thrilled. Thank you for your support of this effort.

The Christmas social was also a hit. I was totally in awe with the number of members in attendance. I do believe that we may have started a new tradition for the paralegals. I know that I enjoyed myself and I had fun trying to remember everyone's names.

We are off to a good start this year for continuing education as our first speaker at January's meeting will be Brian Carroll. Mr. Carroll will be speaking to us about the Texas Residential Consumers Liability Act. I don't even know what that is, but it sounds informative to me! Invite your attorney(s) to attend, as well. CLE credit is pending with the State Bar.

See you at the meeting. Have a great January!

Brenda

BOARD MEETINGS are usually held at the Law Offices of Brett Pritchard in Killeen from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

FEBRUARY 12, 2009 @ Fuddrucker's Restaurant in Killeen at noon.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held in Judge Mischian's courtroom from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

JANUARY 15, 2009

BCBA PARALEGALS

'08-'09 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Brenda Colvin

VICE PRESIDENT – Sherry Gonzalez

SECRETARY – Cindi Evetts

TREASURER – Rene Murray

PARLIAMENTARIAN – Susie Ivy

COMMITTEE LIAISON – Billie Sue Scales

HISTORIAN – Pat Simecek

bcba_lad@yahoo.com



BELL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION PARALEGALS



2008 CHRISTMAS PARTY



CHRISTMAS TIME AT WELLINGTON PLACE

FANNIE SAULS, the Activity Director at Wellington Place wanted all of the residents to receive something special this last Christmas whether the gift was large or small. Being an Activity Director for the last 15 years, Fannie knows all too well what it feels like to see her residents do without. Fannie decided to contact Brenda Colvin to see if our group would be interested in providing simple gifts for the residents. Fannie remembered our group...we were the wonderful people who brought footies and cookies to the residents last year for Valentines. Fannie said when she heard back from Brenda and that our group would be happy to help, she knew that her worries were over. Along with the donations from the Angel Tree, there were enough gifts so that every resident received something. Even new residents that came in during the Holidays received a little something special. All of the residents were very appreciative of the gifts and said that they felt loved. Some of the residents wanted to know who it was that had given the gifts to them and how we knew them. Fannie said thank you, thank you, thank you for the wonderful gifts, they were truly a blessing to all.

BCBA CHRISTMAS PARTY

**CYNTHIA
CHAMPION
AND
JINA
BOYDSTUN**



**MORE
PARTY
GUESTS
AT THE
DEAD FISH
GRILL**



**PARTY
GUESTS
AT THE
DEAD FISH
GRILL**



**YOUNG
LAWYERS
AND
TOYS
FOR
TOTS**



DECEMBER 4, 2008

New Year Traditions Around the World

ECUADOR

In South America “Ano Viejo” is celebrated by creating a fake person or a dummy. The scarecrow-looking person is completely dressed and stuffed with old newspapers, sawdust, wood and firecrackers. The dummy is placed outside the home. The dummy represents something that happened during the last year. At midnight each family lights the dummy on fire. As the dummy goes up in smoke, the firecrackers also go off to add to the festivities. The old year is forgotten and the new year begins.

GREECE

In Greece it is the custom to exchange gifts in the New Year instead of Christmas. The gifts are delivered by Saint Basil (the Greek Santa Claus). He fills the children’s shoes with presents at midnight. As the New Year rolls in - the father, in a solemn ceremony, starts to cut the New Year cake (vasilopita) with the golden coin. The first piece of cake is for Christ, the second piece is for the house, the third piece is for the most senior member of the household and then the cake is distributed among all family members and it is believed that the person who gets the gold coin that is hid inside the cake, will have good luck throughout the coming year.

DENMARK

It is a good sign to find your door littered with a pile of broken dishes at New Years. Old dishes are saved all year to throw them at the homes where their friends live on New Year’s Eve. Many broken dishes is a symbol that you have many friends! The traditional New Year’s Eve menu consists of boiled cod or stewed kale and pork. All these food items tend to bring good luck and happiness to the Danish people in the New Year.

JAPAN

People in Japan spend weeks planning for their New Year celebrations. They buy special food and make decorations for their front doors out of pine branches, bamboo, and ropes that are believed to bring health and long life. Fan ropes are also hung over the doors and roofs with seaweed or ferns to bring them happiness and good luck. Children receive “otoshidamas” which are small gifts with money inside. They also send New Year cards to their friends and hold forgetting-year parties to say goodbye to the old year. The Japanese also forgive their friends and family for any misunderstandings and disagreements they may have had that year so they can make a clean start of the new year. On December 31st, bells are rung 108 times to chase away 108 troubles. The people all laugh after the gongs because laughter will drive away bad spirits. With all the bad spirits gone and troubles and enemies forgiven, they enjoy a day of celebration.

CHINA

Days before the New Year, families are busy cleaning house, hoping to sweep away all the ill-fortune. People also paint their doors and window-panes, usually with red paint. They decorate the doors and windows with paper-cuts and couplets with popular themes of “happiness”, “wealth”, “longevity”, and “satisfactory marriage with more children”. The Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The Chinese people age a year together. Tradition holds that on the seventh day of the new year, all people in China become a year older. The 15th day of the new year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays. Almost all members of Chinese families walk the streets with lanterns, marking the end of festivities. New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day are celebrated as a family affair, a time of reunion and thanksgiving.

THIS YEAR, I RESOLVE TO:



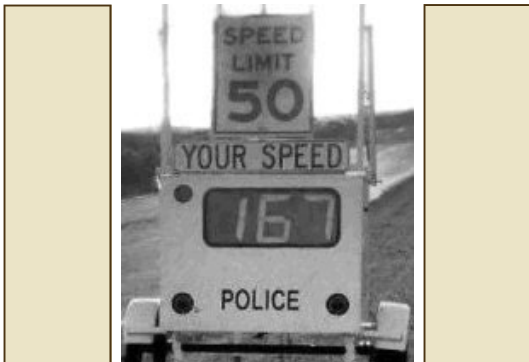
I will always replace the gas nozzle before driving away from the pump.



I WILL ALWAYS “CHECK FOR PAPER” WHEN LEAVING THE RESTROOM.



I will no longer park the BMW next to fire hydrants.



I will try to drive closer to the speed limit.



I will keep an extra safe distance when driving behind police cars.

JANUARY AKA “THE BREAK UP MONTH”

Cold temperatures aren't the only thing frosty about January—it is also known as the “break-up” month because more couples split up during that month than at any other time of the year. Divorce attorneys have long acknowledged that January and February are among their most bountiful months for acquiring new clients. It is not only married folks who need fear the January freeze-out; couples in dating or live-in relationships also tend to go their separate ways more often in January than in any other month. The start of the new year puts people into reflective phases where they tend to examine what is and is not working in their lives. Those self-examinations sometimes result in realizations that they are not happy in their current love relationships. Given that January is also a time of new beginnings, casting out that which no longer suits in preparation for finding a true soul mate becomes part of the many changes those looking to alter their lives will embrace. (Courtesy of Snopes.com)

POWER OF PRAYER

God's help through the power of prayer is available for all kinds of requests and issues. What about our group forming a POWER OF PRAYER group? Each month I would post prayers in the newsletter so that as a group we could pray for one another. Phillipans 4:6-7 tells us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". The power of prayer has overcome enemies (Psalm 6:9-10), conquered death (2 Kings 4:3-36), brought healing (James 5:14-15), and defeated demons (Mark 9:29). God, through prayer, opens eyes, changes hearts, heals wounds, and grants wisdom.

Let me know if you think this is a good idea and if this is something you would participate in or if you would not. Send your thoughts, comments and suggestions to me:

melissabartonwood@bcswlaw.com



THE BEST GIFT
TO GIVE
A FRIEND
IS TO
PRAY FOR THEM

Cynthia Champion is our job bank coordinator. Firms looking to hire or paralegals looking for work can send an email to:

cjhelman254@yahoo.com



BCBA, BCBAP & YOUNG LAWYERS are sponsoring a Scott & White blood drive on **Tuesday, January 27 @** the Courthouse Annex in Belton. Donors will need to bring picture id, be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 lbs and have sufficient iron, which will be tested prior to donating.

SAVE THE DATE

BCBA PARALEGALS
ALL DAY SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 20, 2009

www.processlibrary.com

Written in plain English and free to all PC users, this Web site provides a unique and detailed online database that lists everything that should, and should not be running on your computer. Have you ever pressed "ctrl, alt and delete" to bring up the Windows Task Manager - then looked at all the processes running on your computer....and then wondered "What in the heck are these?" - If you copy and then paste the name of the "unknown" process into the search window of this website, it will identify the process. In all probability the process will be "okay" ..BUT then again it might be something malicious.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

FAITH MULLINS-3RD
CINDI EVETTS-3RD
JUANITA WEIR-11TH
STACI SELLEARS-12TH
MICHELLE PEREIRA-15TH
JUDY GILMORE-20TH
KATHY TAYLOR-25TH
KRISTIE LEAHEY-26TH
SANDRA JONES-31ST

JANUARY

WHAT YOUR BIRTHDAY MONTH SAYS ABOUT YOU

Ambitious and serious; Loves to teach and be taught; Hardworking and productive; Smart, neat and organized; Sensitive and has deep thoughts; Knows how to make others happy; Quiet unless excited or tensed; Rather reserved; Highly attentive; Resistant to illnesses but prone to colds; Romantic but has difficulties expressing love; Loves children; Homely person; Loyal; Easily jealous; Very stubborn.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Do you have a great story to tell, have favorite snapshots, get well wishes, birth announcements, wedding announcements or any other information that is important to you that you would like to share with other members? We would like to know about it...and what an excellent way to get to know each other as well. This newsletter is about YOU and all the great work being performed on the job as well as off the clock. So, send me your story (with photo, if possible) and let's get to know one another.

I am waiting to hear from you!!!

Melissa Barton-Wood
melissabartonwood@bcswlaw.com



Hint: Use Wingdings to figure out the message above.

BELL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

PARALEGALS

© COPYRIGHT 2008
BELL COUNTY (TX) BAR ASSOCIATION PARALEGALS

PUBLISHER: BCBA PARALEGALS ORG
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: MELISSA BARTON-WOOD